

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1, 10, 15, and 17-23.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 26 wherein the second computer file comprises a location definition and an activation region type for ~~the~~ an activation region.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the activation region type for the activation region points to a third computer file comprising a plurality of parameters corresponding to a second graphical image, wherein the second graphical image is defined in a fourth computer file.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 26 wherein ~~the~~ a state of the user interface is a default state.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~1~~ 26 wherein the processing of the first and the second computer files further comprises:

defining a polygon corresponding to an external boundary of the first graphical image, wherein the polygon comprises a non-rectangular irregular shape;

storing information regarding the polygon in ~~the~~ a computer system; and

partitioning the first graphical image into transparent and visible color regions using the information regarding the polygon.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions for instructing a computer to operate as follows:

defining a first graphical image for a visible portion of a user interface for an application program running on the computer in a first computer file, ~~the first graphical image corresponding to a visible user interface for an application program running on the computer, wherein the first graphical image comprises a full extent an external boundary of the visible user interface wherein the graphical image provides at least an outer boundary of the visible portion;~~

~~processing~~ defining in a second computer file comprising a plurality of parameters for associating a functional portion of the user interface with the graphical image corresponding to the first graphical image; and

~~processing the first and second computer files in accordance with the plurality of parameters to display the visible portion of the user interface and configure the functional portion of the user interface~~ the first graphical image.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising a client computer and a server computer wherein the client computer and the server computer are each operable to execute the method of claim 4 26.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 4 ~~27~~ further comprising a graphics engine computer program running in the computer system and operable to read the second computer file for processing the first computer file.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer system ~~for executing~~ comprising:
a process ~~for;~~ and

an application program having a user interface, wherein the process manages a plurality of corresponding graphics file and configuration file pairs, wherein each graphics file defines a graphical image for a visible portion of the user interface, wherein at least one graphical image provides at least an outer boundary of the visible portion, wherein each configuration file defines a plurality of parameters for associating a functional portion of the user interface with at least one graphical image, wherein each of the plurality of corresponding graphics file and configuration file pairs is processed to display the visible portion of the user interface and configure the functional portion of the user interface ~~define~~ substantially the entire user interface for the application program.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

developing for a third party an application program for executing a process on a computer system, wherein the process manages a plurality of corresponding graphics file and configuration file pairs, wherein each graphics file defines a graphical image for a visible portion of the user interface, wherein at least one graphical image provides at least an outer boundary of the visible portion, wherein each configuration file defines a plurality of parameters for associating a functional portion of the user interface with at least one graphical image, wherein each of the plurality of corresponding graphics file and configuration file pairs is processed to display the visible portion of the user interface and configure the functional portion of the user interface ~~define~~ substantially the entire user interface for the application program.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~15~~ 28 wherein at least one of the group consisting of the graphics file and the configuration file is dynamically updated by a server computer coupled to the computer system.

17-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 26 wherein ~~the~~ a state of the user interface is a selected state.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 26 wherein ~~the~~ a state of the user interface is an activated state.

26. (New) A method of displaying a visible portion of a user interface for an application program, the method comprising:

defining a graphical image for the visible portion of the user interface in a first computer file, wherein the graphical image provides at least an outer boundary of the visible portion;

defining in a second computer file a plurality of parameters for associating a functional portion of the user interface with the graphical image; and

processing the first and second computer files to display the visible portion of the user interface and configure the functional portion of the user interface.

27. (New) A computer system comprising:

a memory;

a first computer file stored in the memory, wherein a graphical image for a visible portion of a user interface is defined in the first computer file, and wherein

the graphical image provides at least an outer boundary of the visible portion;
and

a second computer file stored in the memory, wherein a plurality of parameters for associating a functional portion of the user interface with the graphical image are defined in the second computer file, and wherein the first and second computer files are processed to display the visible portion of the user interface and configure the functional portion of the user interface.

28. (New) A computer system comprising:

a graphics file comprising a graphical image for a visible portion of a user interface, wherein the graphical image provides at least an outer boundary of the visible portion; and

a configuration file comprising a plurality of parameters for associating a functional portion of the user interface with the graphical image, wherein the graphics and configuration files are processed to display the visible portion of the user interface and configure the functional portion of the user interface.